

THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

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THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor.

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Disaster or Blessing?

Senator Works in his letter printed yesterday in The Star pictures an inspiring ideal for the future national capital. He would take away from Washington the safeguard against excessive taxation of the unrepresented which the half-and-half law supplies, and he would deprive District residents of the remnant of shadowy municipal representation and self-government which a separate District of Columbia municipality under Washingtonian Commissioners suggests. But he would substitute in each case something specifically more desirable. Viewing the half-and-half law not as a safeguard to the District against unjust taxation, but as a restraint upon the patriotic beneficence of the nation which wishes to and should bear far more than half the burden of capital upbuilding, Senator Works would substitute for the half-and-half plan a relation under which the nation, unrestrained by any self-imposed obligation to give any arbitrary amount, would without legal compulsion spend far more on the nation's city than it does now. In place of shadowy and delusive imitation of municipal self-government he would give full national representation in Congress and electoral college. This representation would also serve as a safeguard against excessive taxation as a substitute for the half-and-half law.

All that Washington asks of Senator Works and other warm friends of the capital who think as he does is that they do not deprive Washington of the safeguard which it has without simultaneously substituting in fact the more alluring and effective safeguard which they favor. Many of us believe that full national representation in Congress and the electoral college will furnish a better shield against injustice than the half-and-half law provides. But our constitutional amendment is contemptuously shelved in congressional committees, while repeal of the half-and-half law is immediately threatened without any substitute whatever.

That the capital's bone of national maintenance under the half-and-half law is small and unsatisfactory furnishes no reason for dropping and losing it altogether in order to snap at a fine, large reflection in the water.

Senator Works recognizes the burden of responsibility which falls upon friends of Washington if they participate in murder of the half-and-half law on the theory that its existence is hurtful to Washington and a restraint upon national beneficence. The great majority of us think that it is a necessary shield and safeguard of the District, not to be lost without injury unless an immediate and effective substitute is provided.

The joint committee has found that the half-and-half law is fair and that its continued existence injures no one unless it is the District. The District is ready to take its chances of injury under it, until something equally as good is provided in its place.

Why should not all friends of Washington unite to oppose the unconditional repeal at this time of the half-and-half law by rider upon the District appropriation bill?

It has been demonstrated not to be necessary to kill this law to do justice to the nation; why kill it to do justice to the District, when the conditions give no assurance that benefit instead of disaster will result?

An almost unbearable responsibility rests upon those who with good intent toward the District join with those who wish to destroy the half-and-half law in order to do the District taxpayers harm. Suppose these friends guess wrong as to results, and intending to benefit inflict irreparable injury.

Suppose their beauty potion for the National Capital, their water of eternal life and youth for Washington's prosperity and welfare, turns out to be a poison and inflicts death.

Henry Ford has just enough of a boom to prevent him from starting on another peace excursion until after the Chicago convention.

A Republican Wanted.

This bears a Pittsburgh date line: "Asserting that he had not given the question of the republican nominee much thought, Mr. Taft in an interview stated that he would support any republican who might be selected at Chicago. He said with emphasis that he 'was and is a republican.'"

"A statement at this time by me is almost wholly out of the question," he said, "inasmuch as I have given the matter very little thought. I have always been and am a republican. The republicans are all my friends and I will support any republican they name. It would be ingratitude for me to do otherwise. They were very good to me—in fact, I could not have asked for better treatment. The fight is going to be a hard one, and I am for them. I have not forgotten what they did for me."

"Any republican" is very much to the point. It will be a republican convention, assembled to nominate a candidate to lead the republican party on a platform declaratory of republican principles. Is not republican leadership absolutely necessary? Is it possible to associate triumph at the polls under any other leadership?

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